

Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance, I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, this week, from April 18th to 24th, we are celebrating the 46th anniversary of National Library Week. As a strong and vigorous supporter of Federal initiatives to strengthen and protect libraries, I am pleased to have this opportunity to take a few moments to reflect on the significance of libraries to our nation.

When the free public library came into its own in this country in the 19th century, it was, from the beginning, a unique institution because of its commitment to the free and open exchange of ideas embodied in the Constitution itself. Libraries have always been an integral part of all that our country stands for: freedom of information, an educated citizenry, and an open and enlightened society. They are the only public agencies in which the services rendered are intended for, and available to, every segment of our society.

It has been my longstanding view that libraries play an indispensable role in our communities. From modest beginnings in the mid-19th century, today's libraries provide well-stocked reference centers and wide-ranging loan services based on a system of branches, often further supplemented by traveling libraries or on-line libraries serving outlying districts. Libraries promote the reading of books among adults, adolescents, and children and provide the access and resources to allow citizens to obtain reliable information on a vast array of topics.

Libraries have gained even further significance in this age of rapid technological advancement because they are called upon to provide not only books and periodicals, but many other valuable resources as well. In today's society, libraries provide computer services, Internet access, audio-visual materials, facilities for community lectures and performances, DVDs, CD-Roms, tapes, and works of art for exhibit and loan to the public. In addition, special facilities libraries provide services for older Americans, people with disabilities, and hospitalized citizens.

Of course, libraries are not merely passive repositories of materials. They are engines of learning—the place where a spark is often struck for disadvantaged citizens who for whatever reason have not had exposure to the vast stores of knowledge available. I have the greatest respect for those individuals who are members of the library community and work so hard to ensure that our citizens and communities continue to enjoy the tremendous rewards available through our library system.

My own State of Maryland has 24 public library systems providing a full

range of library services to all Maryland citizens and a long tradition of open and unrestricted sharing of resources. This policy has been enhanced by the State Library Network, which provides interlibrary loans to the State public, academic, special libraries, and school library media centers. The Network receives strong support from the State Library Resource Center at the Enoch Pratt Free Library, the Regional Library Resource Centers in our Western, Southern, and Eastern Shore counties, and a Statewide database of periodicals from over 100 libraries.

The State Library Resource Center alone gives Marylanders free access to approximately 2 million books, over 1 million U.S. Government documents, 600,000 magazines, newspapers and books in microform, 11,000 periodicals, 90,000 maps, 20,000 Maryland State documents, and 19,000 videos and films.

The result of this unique joint State-County resource sharing is an extraordinary level of library services available to the citizens of Maryland. Marylanders have responded to this outstanding service with almost 58 percent of the State's population registered as library patrons. Additionally, the total holdings of catalogued and uncatalogued book volumes, video and audio recordings, periodicals, electronic formats, and serial volumes have increased by 1.2 million from 1998 to 2002 to total almost 16.8 million library holdings.

I have had a close working relationship with members of the Maryland Library Association and others involved in the library community throughout the State, and I am very pleased to join with them and citizens throughout the Nation in this week's celebration of "National Library Week." I look forward to a continued close association with those who enable libraries to make their unique and vital services available to all Americans.

CHINESE COMPETITION

Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina. Mr. President, one thing I have learned in the last couple of years is that everywhere I go the manufacturing community at home keeps bringing up on topic, Chinese competition. Due in large part to China's unfair trade practices; South Carolina alone lost 41,000 jobs in 2003. Most of these jobs were textile and related industries. In the last five and a half years, three million American manufacturing jobs have been lost. Since 1997, the U.S. textile industry has closed more than 250 textile plants in the country and more than 200,000 U.S. textile workers have lost their jobs.

Why is this happening? Why are American manufacturers not able to keep up with the Chinese? It is not because our workforce is intellectually inferior, and I don't believe our workforce is lazy. And it certainly isn't because we haven't invested in the most modern equipment.

It is because China cheats. China's accession agreement to enter the WTO consisted of numerous commitments by China to transition to a market and rules based economy. China has yet to live up to their commitments. The theory of free trade is a great theory, but it only works if other people buy into that theory. It is hard to have free trade if you do not even believe in free speech. Through its unfair trade practices, China continues to steal market share, and the U.S. manufacturing industry is at serious disadvantage.

China's currency, the yuan or renminbi, has been tightly pegged at 8.28 yuan to the U.S. dollar since 1994, which most economists believe to be a severe undervaluation of their currency. Most economists estimate China's currency to be undervalued by as much as 15 to 40 percent. This undervaluation makes China's exports less expensive for foreigners, while making foreign products more expensive for Chinese consumers, resulting in an effective subsidization of Chinese exports and poses a virtual tariff on Chinese imports.

Consequently, since 1994, China's economy has grown dramatically, averaging over 8 percent per year. The U.S. trade deficit with China in 2003 reached a record \$125 billion. In 1994, when China first began to peg its currency to the dollar, the United States trade deficit with China was \$29.4 billion.

China has been in clear violation of International Monetary Fund, IMF, and world Trade Organization, WTO, commitments by maintaining an unfairly low exchange rate to gain a competitive advantage. IMF Article IV states that members should "avoid manipulating exchange rates . . . in order . . . to gain an unfair competitive advantage over other members." The U.S. China Economic and Security Review Commission, a bipartisan commission created by Congress, found in its September 25, 2003 hearing, that: "China, in violation of both its IMF and WTO obligations, is in fact manipulating its currency for trade advantage" and recommends that the Treasury Department "immediately enter into formal negotiations with the Chinese government" over its undervalued currency. The Commission further "urges the Congressional leadership to use its legislative powers to force action by the U.S. and Chinese Governments to address this unfair and mercantilist trade practice."

At this hearing, Fred Bergsten, Ph.D., Director of International Institute of Economics, testified that a revaluation of 20 to 25 percent of the yuan should permit other Asian currencies, including Japan, Taiwan, North Korea, to go up at least partway, maybe 10 percent or so, because with the yuan appreciating, they would be willing to appreciate against the dollar since it would actually create a depreciation of their own currencies against the Chinese currency, their main competitor. If you put all those currency